

Application No.: 08/957,833  
Filed: October 27, 1997  
Group Art Unit: 2772

14 comparing step including comparing each sub-region of the tile  
15 region with a corresponding portion of each source image to  
16 produce the measurement of visual similarity;  
17 selecting the source image with the highest measurement  
18 of visual similarity to represent the tile region; and  
19 positioning the selected source image in the mosaic  
20 image at a locus corresponding to the locus of the tile region.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 15, 31, and 49 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-15, 17-31, and 33-53 are pending.

Examiner Nguyen and Primary Examiner Zimmerman are thanked for their participation in the interview of November 12. During the interview, claim 1 and the other independent claims were discussed with respect to the Fukushima reference (JP 8-55133) that is currently the basis for a rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). No other claims or grounds of rejection were discussed. It was agreed by all participants in the interview that the Fukushima reference does not show the use of generally complex source images to build the so-called "mosaic" images

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described therein. As shown in Figure 4 of Fukushima, each element of the so-called "mosaic" image is simply a small rectangle of uniform color. Also, there is no additional teaching or suggestion in Fukushima of making the so-called "mosaic" images from other than such uniform rectangles.

The independent claims in this application have been amended as suggested by the Examiners during the interview to clarify that generally complex source images, i.e. source images that are more than simply small rectangles of uniform color, are utilized to generate mosaic images in the present invention. Examples of mosaic images made of sixteen complex source images are shown in the right-most portion of Figure 5 of the application. Each of these images is clearly distinct from the uniform rectangular areas of the images in Fukushima. It is believed that the invention as set forth in the claims is clearly and patentably distinct from the teaching of Fukushima. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is respectfully reminded of the Special status of this application, and is urged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matters that might expedite allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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